The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1915.

WHOLE NO. 201.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

MINERS' DISTRESS IS TOLD

all the hou... and stores. Con... in the mining camps, ...e is no social Lawson, of Denver, member... own United Mine Workers' union, before... United States industrial relations commission.

The unionist cited a long list of accidents in the mines and a list of the men killed. The widows and fatherless children get, on an average, $305.40. As long as the witness could remember only two verdicts unfavorable to the Colorado Fuel and Iron company have been awarded. "and I think," continued Lawson, "that the company furnished the cemeteries. The coroners have a habit of giving a verdict of suicide or death due to carelessness."

The unionist directed the commission's attention to a statement which he said was made by John D. Rockefeller, jr., April 6, 1914, in which Mr. Rockefeller was quoted as saying that the Colorado Fuel and Iron company would never recognize the United Mine Workers of America and that it was a fight to the finish.

"Two weeks after that to the day came Ludlow," Lawson said. "I do not know whether there was any connection between these two things. I hope not. A man like Mr. Rockefeller should be careful of the things he says, however."

The witness discussed the payment of workmen in scrip, redeemable for merchandise at company stores, and the employment of check weighmen, who are paid by the miners to see that the company does not cheat the men in weighing coal at the tipple. There was a law in Colorado, Lawson said, providing for check weighmen; in spite of that, the law frequently was violated by the operators. When weighmen are selected, he continued, the companies see to it that "safe men" from their viewpoint, are selected.

NEED FOR COMPENSATION LAW.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 6.—Judge Bond, of the State Supreme court, has aided the friends of workmen's compensation by his dissenting opinion in the case of an electrician who was denied damages because he was unable to show negligence on the part of the employing company. The judge said:

"I am not willing to concede that the right to recover for an injury suffered in hazardous industry, should any longer be predicable only upon proof of negligence on the part of the owner. I think that stage in the evolution of the law has now been passed, and that the administration of justice should no longer be obstructed by the outworn legal concept, which refuses all compensation for injuries caused by work necessary to social betterment except upon proof of causative negligence on the part of the employer.

"The multitude and mischief of cases like the present demonstrate, in my opinion, the imperative need in our positive law of an enactment embodying the principle of workingmen's compensation.

"The economic and social reasons demanding such a law are universal among the civilized nations of the world, where industrialism has reached a development and expansion undreamed of in the past. The moral life, comfort and well-being of humanity today, not to mention its luxuries, require the employment for utilitarian purposes of the great bulk of the human race."

LOSS OF LIFE IN MINES.

Washington, Feb. 6.—In his annual report submitted to the secretary of the interior, Dr. Joseph A. Holmes reviews the investigations made by the bureau of mines to safeguard the miners from electrical accidents. It is declared that not only have many men been killed or injured, but indirectly electrical apparatus has been responsible for mine explosions and mine fires that have extensively destroyed both life and property.

In the investigation of the ignition of coal dust by electric flashes, valuable results have been obtained. Coal dust ignitions have been obtained under practical underground conditions with currents of surprisingly low voltage. The danger of dust explosions being started by such currents has been shown, but the work needs to be continued, says the report, to determine the extent of the danger and how it may be nullified.

ILLITERATES INCREASE.

Washington, Feb. 6.—In a report on immigration illiteracy prepared under the direction of the United States commissioner of education, it is shown that more than one-half of the immigrants from Portugal, Mexico, Turkey, Syria, Lithuania and southern Italy are illiterate. The latter country furnishes this country with 52.3 per cent of its illiterate immigrants. On June 30, 1914, there were 2,442,765 foreign-born illiterates in the United States, 65 per cent of whom are huddled in the cities and manufacturing towns of the Atlantic seaboard. Since 1910 the native white illiterates have been decreasing in number, while foreign-born illiterates have increased rapidly.

WANT LAW REPEALED.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 6.—The new child labor law of this state, placed on the statute books mainly through the efforts of organized labor, will be repealed, if the exploiters of these little ones have their way. The law was in effect but sixteen days when the bill was introduced. Discussing this proposal, the Union Labor Bulletin of this city says:

"We imagine that the chief objections urged against the present law are formed by selfish employers of labor who are hiding themselves behind 'the widow and the orphan.'"

WANT MORE INSPECTORS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 6.—The legislative committee of United Mine Workers will urge the appointment of an assistant mine inspector in every district. The unionists show that this will double the frequency of mine inspections and will make possible a stricter compliance with the law in safe-guarding lives. The law now provides that inspectors shall visit each work place at least once in three months. The small number of officials make this impossible.

REJECT BID FOR CONVICTS.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 6.—State authorities have rejected the bid of the Hoke-Montgomery company for the labor of 500 prisoners in the reformatory at this place. The bids carried an option of renewal, and are as follows: One year, 45 cents per day; two years, 55 cents; three years, 65 cents, and four years, 75 cents.

RAILROADS OPPOSE BILL.

Columbus, O., Feb. 6.—Railroad companies are sending delegations to the state capital to oppose a bill providing one day's rest in seven for all Ohio industrial workers. The bill is being supported by organized workers.

WORK FOR PEACE PLEADERS

San Francisco, Feb. 6.—In an editorial entitled "Bullets vs. Reason and Justice," the Bulletin of this city says:

"Nineteen striking workingmen were ...t by deputy sheriffs Tuesday in a riot ...oosevelt, New Jersey. The first re... of the An...the affair as a 'battle' be... when one hundred deputies, and prob... searched by the mayor ... reactionaries an... police not one weapon was fou... lawlessness ... Yet of them.

"This is not an isolated instance, save that the deputies may have acted with a little more than the usual degree of insolence and cruelty, or that public opinion may have been inclined toward the side of the strikers. Authorities in American industrial districts are generally only too ready to use violence against strikers at the slightest provocation, and the poorer and more ignorant and the less familiar with the customs and language of the country the workingmen are, the more violence is likely to be used against them.

"Before going further with an international peace movement we may need to turn our attention to disarmament and peace within the borders of the United States. It is time we stopped settling labor disputes with ball cartridges and bayonets. If we want a revolution, in our own time or in our sons' time, we can get one by such methods. If we desire, on the other hand, a peaceful and orderly industrial development we can have that. We have only to depose the bullet and the bayonet from their commanding position as arbiters in industry and put reason and justice in their places."

COKE OVEN ACCIDENTS.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The hazard of the coke industry compares favorably with the quarry industry and the surface workings of metal mines, according to figures collected by the bureau of mines for the year 1913. The investigation conducted by the bureau includes the reports of 294 establishments, sixty-seven of which were reported as idle, leaving 227 plants as operating. These plants employed 24,345 men, and of this number forty-six were killed, 342 seriously injured and 2,172 slightly injured. It is stated that 43 per cent of the fatalities are due to haulage systems, and it is recommended that greater care and precaution should be taken to safeguard the employes who operate or work adjacent to transportation equipment. The report makes the following comparison of fatalities per 1,000 employes in the coke, quarries and metal mines industries for the year 1913:

Coke ovens—Killed, 1.89, seriously injured, 14.06, slightly injured, 89.22.

Quarries—Killed, 1.72, seriously injured, 10.28, slightly injured, 62.55.

Metal mines (surface only)—Killed, 2.06, seriously injured, 21.75, slightly injured, 92.12.

LABOR TO GET FRUITS OF TOIL.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—In an address in this city, Speaker Champ Clark, of the House of Representatives, expressed the hope that the statecraft, humanitarianism, and religion of the twentieth century will devise a scheme whereby every man and woman shall enjoy the fruits of their own labor and prevent any one from monopolizing the toil of thousands.

"In 113 years our total wealth multiplied 125-fold, and is now rated at the enormous sum of $140,000,000,000," he declared. "This, if equally distributed, would give $1,312 to every man, woman, and child between the two oceans. But there is the rub, for while a few are rich beyond the dreams of avarice, many have not the wherewithal to feed and clothe themselves.

"The signs of the times indicate, however, that the hope of better conditions is not too fantastic for entertainment."

ROCKY ROAD FOR COMPENSATION

St. Louis, Feb. 6.—Considerable difficulty is being experienced in drafting a workmen's compensation law that will adequately protect Missouri workers and yet appeal to a majority of the members of the legislature. Personal injury attorneys and insurance companies are the forces that are causing the greatest difficulty. Two commissions authorized by legislatures have been unable to present a satisfactory solution, but the work of the second commission was an improvement over the first. It is problematical whether the workers will be successful in putting on the statute books even a fairly satisfactory law, or whether a deadlock will ensue.

AGAINST CHILD LABOR.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 6.—Right thinking citizens in this state are joining with trade unionists in a protest against child labor in Georgia's cotton mills and corn and cotton fields. This agitation has created a demand that conditions be investigated. Writing to a local paper on this phase of the question, a woman says:

"We have a child labor law—yes. But, let us all in silence, in secret, hold up our right hands and swear, 'Do you believe that this law is an honest child labor law, and that it is being honestly enforced?'"

TO PROTECT CHILD WORKERS.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 6.—An eight-hour day for all workers under the age of eighteen years is one of the requirements of a child labor bill introduced in the state legislature. The bill provides that children under fifteen shall not be allowed to work except in vacation time, puts a twenty-one-year age limit on night messengers in the large cities, and restricts juvenile employment on the stage, except children fifteen years or older, who may appear on the stage up to 10 p. m.

BLAME LAX LAWS.

San Francisco, Feb. 6.—A coroner's jury has exonerated the owners of a building in which an elevator plunged eight stories to the basement, killing one of the occupants and wounding nine others. The jury says: "The real cause of this accident is the lack of properly constituted authority to compel the owners of buildings to replace cables after they have been notified by the inspector that the cables are unsafe."

FEDERAL DECISION APPEALED.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 6.—This state will contest the decision of a federal court in San Francisco, which invalidated a law adopted by a referendum vote of Arizona citizens that only 20 per cent aliens could be employed by employers hiring five or more workers.

MAIL ORDER BUSINESS PAYS.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—Directors of the mail order corporation of Sears, Roebuck & Co. have recommended the payment of a $20,000,000 stock dividend. It is proposed that the corporation's common stock be increased from $40,000,000 to $60,000,000.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS TELLS WORKERS OF THE DANGER OF SHIFTING DUTIES

From "The American Federationist."

Two methods have been devised for dealing with the wrongs and injustice that have been imposed upon the workers. Some have put their faith in party political action and have trusted the solution of labor problems to legislation. Others have based all action upon the principle that free workers must never delegate to outside authority ultimate control over determining conditions and terms of personal relations ... employers and employes, but the workers Those ...st assume responsibility for their own mentarians who ... enacting laws to estab... first method are the parliamust be made by the official ...ure reforms through by the administrative agents of the ...ages. The laws vitally affected by the legislation have in...enforced trol, if any, over the formulation and enforcement... the regulation. Responsibility for ultimate results is shifted.

Those who advocate the second method are the trade unionists who subordinate political action to economic activity. They hold that the key to industrial freedom, which is real freedom for the working people, is maintenance of strong, virile, resourceful economic organizations, aware of their power and using it most effectively. They hold that unions which let go ultimate control over industrial welfare, stultify initiative, weaken the fighting force of the trade unionists, and hence undermine their power physically, politically and socially.

Events during the past year prove that legislation does not "settle" things, that legislative action not only is not final but increases the difficulties that confront workers in controlling matters affecting their own interests.

The members of the organized labor movement of the state of Washington have been consuming their energies in efforts to have the economic demands, rights, and privileges taken care of by state legislation. But now the president of the Washington State Federation of Labor, Mr. E. P. Marsh, laments the fact that the state now has the most reactionary legislature which it has seen in years. He states that labor is unable to take advantage of an unusual opportunity to establish a state system of employment agencies and makes this significant assertion: "We are going to have to fight as well to hold labor legislation now upon the statute books and to make our initiative machinery more workable than it is at present." These exponents of legislative action to secure the demands of workers are finding out that a law secured at one session of the legislature may be absolutely undone at the next and that many vexatious and vicious restrictions may be imposed upon workers by scheming politicians who as office-holders in the legislature are able to follow their own reactionary ideas or are susceptible to the blandishments of the oppressors of Labor.

What the Washington workers have experienced ...chusetts ... the experience of the workers of Massa... few weeks ago Gov. Walsh of Massalaws of Massachus... ...ty to recommend that the labor the industries to take ...suspended so as to enable portunities afforded by the ter... of the unusual op- order to serve the interests of the European war. In governor of the state urged the revival o... turers the practice that the Stuart rulers of England exercised under their claim to the divine right of kings.

When necessary and humane laws are threatened with repeal by reactionary legislatures and with suspension by reactionary governors, it is a vain hope to trust the industrial welfare of the wage-earners to legislation. And this has been the experience of the workers of all ages. * * * *

Let the workers keep in their own hands and under their immediate control regulation of matters that vitally affect industrial welfare. Organizations of workers aware of their own interests and alert to further that which promotes their own welfare are more capable of steadily securing wider opportunities and better things than any outside agents to whom this responsibility can be delegated. The way to industrial betterment and progress and freedom lies in our well-tried policy. Educate! Agitate! Organize!

POOR WAGES CAUSE DEATHS.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The American Federation of Labor's continued insistence that low wages and poor conditions shorten life is sustained in a report issued by the children's bureau of the department of labor. It is shown that babies whose fathers earned less than $10 a week died at the rate of 256 per 1,000, while those whose fathers earned $25 or more a week died at the rate of 84 per 1,000.

The infant death rate varied in different parts of the same city. In the poorest section, where sanitary conditions were at their worst, the rate was 271 per 1,000 babies, or more than five times that of the choice residential section of the city. Where mothers were employed a large part of the time in heavy work, babies died at a much more rapid rate. In one group of 19 mothers whose babies all died, 15 had been keeping lodgers, an arduous occupation among the foreign women, where the wife, without extra charge, often washes and irons for the lodgers and buys and prepares their food.

DISCUSSES FOUNDATION.

Philadelphia, Feb. 6.—In a leading editorial, the North American of this city discusses the Rockefeller Foundation in the light of admissions made by Rockefeller, jr., of his ignorance regarding Colorado conditions, and facts marshaled by trade unionists. These facts, the paper states, are "profoundly disturbing." The editor makes this reference to Mr. Rockefeller:

"When a man with his opportunities and good intentions shows that he does not possess the first rudiments of knowledge necessary to administer a great public trust, it is clear that the idea of these huge foundations is still on trial and should not be accepted without further evidence that it is not antagonistic to American ideals and institutions."

TO HOLD A "LABOR FORWARD."

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 6.—A committee has been appointed by the Central Trades and Labor Union to begin the preliminary work for a "labor forward" movement, to be held in this city during May, June, and July. The population of this city is close to 750,000, and while there is a strong and effective labor movement here, there are many wage earners unorganized. It is proposed to make this campaign the most vigorous yet conducted. The Building Trades Council will act with the central body.

TO REGULATE LOAN "SHARKS."

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 6.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature which provides for the strict regulation of loan "sharks." Interest cannot be compounded within less than eight months, and the following rates will be permitted: Loans of $25, 5 per cent per month; more than $25 and not exceeding $100, 4 per cent per month; more than $100 and not exceeding $200, 3 per cent per month; more than $200 and not exceeding $400, 2 per cent per month; more than $300, 1 per cent per month.

SHOWS AMERICA'S WASTE.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 6.—That America "cannot stand this free-booting, destructive, individualistic, every-man-for-himself-devil-take-the-hindmost pace much longer, sacrificing the lives of 150,000 babies every year, who died of preventable diseases, and spending $6,500,000,000 a year in institutional care alone," was the prophecy of Rev. Dr. Frank Garland, Dayton's director of public welfare, in an address in this city.

TO LICENSE STEAM FITTERS.

Haverhill, Mass., Feb. 6.—A bill to be presented to the state legislature for licensing steam fitters was approved by the convention of the State Association of Steam Fitters and Plumbers, held in this city. Seventy-five delegates were present. Reports submitted showed that the association is in a flourishing condition. The next meeting will be held in Northampton, July 24 and 25.

STRIKE OF "INDEPENDENTS."

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 6.—One hundred "free and independent" cigar makers employed trade union methods in this city to resist a second wage cut of $1 per thousand within the past year and are now on strike. These workers "do not believe in unions," but have modified their views when they see organized cigarmakers receiving $12.50 for doing work they are offered $9 for.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS FOR KANSAS

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 6.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature for the distribution of free textbooks to the school children of this state. The bill provides that the books shall be printed in the state printing plant.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

MORE EVIDENCE AGAINST TRUSTS.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Supplemental to documentary evidence that the trusts have financed opposition to immigration restriction, published last week by the A. F. of L., President Gompers has made public an agreement between the National Liberal Immigration league and Bela N. Sekely, field representative of the league, in which the latter pledges itself to pay Sekely the following commissions on all moneys raised:

Sums over $10,000, 10 per cent.

Over $5,000 and up to $10,000, a commission of 15 per cent (20 per cent).

Over $1,000 and up to $5,000, 20 per cent.

Sums of $1,000 or less, 25 per cent.

It is agreed that Sekely shall receive a commission of 10 per cent on all contributions made by parties one year after their first contribution.

The agreement provides that when a contribution is made by trusts or holding companies the amount is to be divided among the several concerns. The United States Steel Corporation is used to illustrate this point.

With the agreement is reprinted a letter from N. Behar, managing director of the league, to Sekely, in which the writer closes as follows: "No more so, since I must count the sous and the pfennigs."

CAN OVERCOME DECISION BY WORKERS ORGANIZING

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 6.—The Holyoke Artisan, official paper of the labor unions in this section, declares that if the workers organize they can nullify the United States Supreme court decision, which set aside the Kansas anti-coercion law. The Artisan editor says:

"It is not unlikely that there are those who think labor got a knockout blow from the Supreme Court this week in the decision which invalidates all laws forbidding employers the right to discriminate against members of unions. We are not able to see it that way. While we are, of course, sorry to see the work of years swept away so easily, the facts are that employers who have wished to discriminate against members of unions have done so in spite of the law. They have not, to be sure, come out in the open and said that the discharge of a certain employe was because he was a member of a union, but they have found ways to get rid of such a workman—if there was not a union membership strong enough to prevent it. There is nothing in this decision to cause labor serious worry. The effect of it can be easily overcome by a thorough organization of the workers."

WOMEN'S LAW ATTACKED.

Dover, Del., Feb. 6.—Representative Hall has introduced a bill "by request" that will repeal the ten-hour law for working women and girls.

The repealer has just been introduced at a time when Miss Mary S. Malone, the ten-hour-law inspector, was preparing to have amendments offered to make it more effective. Her investigations have shown that conditions are so intolerably bad in restaurants that she wishes the female employes of eating houses protected from unreasonably long hours. Other recommendations also are made in her report. Trade unionists and women's clubs are protesting against the repeal.

TO CARE FOR CHILDREN.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 6.—A bill has been introduced in both houses of the state legislature authorizing school officials in cities of 50,000 or over to provide clothing and shoes for children between the ages of six and twenty, when parents are unable to provide these necessities. Only two cities will be effected if the bill becomes a law, St. Louis and Kansas City. It is proposed, however, to extend the plan to smaller cities, once the law is in operation.

PRINTERS SIGN CONTRACT.

Denver, Feb. 6.—The Typographical union has signed a three years' contract with the Rocky Mountain News, the Times, and the Post. It is the first time a contract was ever signed with the latter paper. While not a party to the conference, the Denver Express has concurred in the terms.

STRIKERS REJECT OFFER.

Roosevelt, N. J., Feb. 6.—An offer of $1.80 for a ten-hour day was unanimously rejected by striking employes of the Libig and William & Clark companies. The men are demanding the restoration of their old $2 rate, and at the meeting which rejected the compromise offer the wives of the strikers appealed to their husbands not to accept $1.80, but fight until their demands are granted. Last week an abandoned plant was started near here, but A. F. of L. organizers assisted the strikers in inducing the men employed to cease work and join the union.

The Armour company has announced that it will restore the old rate of $2. About seventy men are benefited. This is the second firm that has granted the men's demands. Employes of a Newark fertilizer works have had their wages raised 20 cents a day, because of strike agitation. Last week about 200 additional men joined the organization, which is being perfected by A. F. of L. representatives.

A bitter feeling still exists because of the murderous assault by imported gunmen, and the strikers are insisting that the thugs be swiftly punished.

PLEADS FOR EDUCATION.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 6.—In his inaugural address, Gov. Manning said:

"We must frankly admit that we are still far short of the position we should occupy in the work of education. It stands to our shame that the percentage of illiteracy among our citizens is so great. This stain must be wiped out: and to do this, we must tax ourselves liberally for the public schools in order that their usefulness may be increased."

The new executive recommended that a commission be appointed to investigate the question of workmen's compensation for the benefit of the legislature that convenes next year.

Raising the age limit on child labor from twelve to fourteen years was also favored, and attention was called to the problem of public schools in mill towns. The governor stated that "the state cannot longer overlook the needs of children in such communities."

GUESSES AVERAGE WAGE.

Boston, Feb. 6.—At a hearing before the arbitration board to adjust the wages of Bay State Street Railway company's employes, Robert S. Goff, manager of the company, was not sure of the average wage of his workers. He made a guess that the men were "rising $14 a week." He stated that, in general, "orders that are given the men must be carried in their heads." He acknowledged that in summer the men have to do more work, because of excursion business, but they receive the same pay. The general manager deplored the continued activity of the Federal interstate commerce commission. He said that formerly the company reported only accidents of an interstate nature to the commission, but that body now claims that it should receive full information in regard to accidents occurring entirely in any one state.

SOLON CAUSES LAUGHS.

Denver, Feb. 6.—Trade unionists in this state are laughing at the efforts of Representative Ardourel to attract the attention of "big business." This solon has introduced four bills intended to end strikes. One of them provides severe punishment for any one "who shall make any public speech or write or cause to be published any book, pamphlet, or newspaper or magazine article inflammatory in character and having a tendency to incite public disorder."

CONFER WITH GOVERNOR.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 6.—Representative trade unionists of this state have had a conference with Gov. Dunne, who was urged to favor a bill to be introduced in the legislature which will prohibit the issuance of so-called labor injunctions, and which will have the same effect in state courts as the Clayton law has in federal courts. The Massachusetts law, passed last year, will be used as a model.

WELL-KNOWN UNIONIST DIES.

Kansas City, Kan., Feb. 6.—The remains of William J. Gilthorpe, who died at Linden, La., were interred in this city. For a score of years deceased was secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America, which retired him last year on an annuity of $1,200 a year in recognition of faithful services.

MUST CARE FOR INJURED.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 6.—The house of representatives of this state has passed a bill requiring all railroads operating in Oklahoma to maintain hospital facilities within the state. The bill is now before the senate. A similar provision was passed by both branches of the state legislature at its fourth session, but was vetoed by the governor.

MR. MORGAN 'DIDN'T KNOW'

New York, Feb. 6.—Before the United States industrial relations commission, J. P. Morgan, financial king, proved that this "is an age of specialists" when questioned on labor matters. The witness confessed his absolute ignorance of these questions with as much feeling as he would vote for the merging of two railroad trunk lines. He seemed astonished that he would be supposed to inquire into labor conditions of his properties, and some of the questions appeared to amuse him. The occasion seemed to be in the nature of a "lark" for this gentleman, who stated that he was unable to say whether labor unions benefited the workers, as he "was too busy studying other kinds of questions." He knew nothing of labor unions, but declared for what he called the "open shop"—he knew that much, at least.

He was not certain about "collective bargaining," and thought that "an employer should play the part of any decent man." After unburdening himself of this generality, the financial king smiled satisfactorily.

He was asked if $10 a week was a sufficient wage for longshoremen. "If that is what is paid and the longshoreman takes it, I guess it is enough," was the answer.

Mr. Morgan thought every man should have equal rights before the law. In un...he was positive. He explained that ditions ...d no right to "lay down" conditions Steel Corp...workers in the United States nothing to do...on. They—the unions—had ... it.

"The men cert... don't have to work there," Mr. Morgan said. "If they are dissatisfied, they can leave. That is every man's right."

The witness did not even possess originality in stating his ignorance and indifference to social and economic questions.

CHILD LABOR IS DEPLORED.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 6.—Laws raising the age at which children may be put to work were favored by Rev. Hugh MacCauley, in a speech in this city.

"A strange sight greets us every day in this rich and prosperous country," said the clergyman. "Every morning an army of 1,750,000 child workers, ten to fifteen years of age, goes forth to labor eight, nine, ten and even eleven hours in factories, sweat shops, mines, glass works, canneries, fields or street trades. Every night these weary thousands turn homeward, too worn out for play or anything else but to snatch a restless sleep, to enable them to go to work again at 7 or 8 o'clock the next morning.

"More startling still is the growth of this great evil. During the twenty years ended in 1900 the federal census shows that while child laborers increased 56 per cent—more by 12 per cent than the increase in child population—little girl workers increased 65 per cent. This then is the preparation we are giving to the future mothers of our land.

"Child labor means not only stunted growth, long hours, physical overstrain, night work, but also a lamentable shortening of the school life of these children."

POSTAL RECEIPTS INCREASE.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The European war has more than doubled the rate of increase in postal savings in the United States, according to figures prepared in the office of Third Assistant Postmaster General Dockery.

More than 100,000 names have been added to the lists of depositors since the war began. During the war period receipts have increased at the rate of $3,000,000 a month. During the entire fiscal year 1914, that is up to July 1, postal savings deposits increased about $9,600,000, or 28 per cent. During the six months from July 1 to January 1, the increase was $15,750,000, or an increase of 36 per cent. The new year opened with approximately $59,200,000 on deposit to the credit of 497,000 people, an average of $119 per depositor.

$6-A-WEEK GIRLS GO HUNGRY.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 6.—A girl who earns only $6 a week must go hungry unless she receives some outside help, Mrs. Glendower Evans, of Boston, declared before the American Economic association. The speaker has been connected with the minimum wage scale commission in Massachusetts and has made an extensive survey of conditions there.

"The vast majority of wage-earning women work because they must," she said. "And the vast majority earn wages far below the requirements of a decent living.

"How, then, do they live? I answer, for the most part, by enduring every form of privation. The majority of them, I believe, are terribly underfed. Every study of budgets and living conditions that I know of shows this."

PROTECT FREE SPEECH.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 6.—Thorough the influence of organized labor, the builders of a new city charter have stricken out the section which would give the common council the right to pass ordinances regulating street parades, demonstrations, public meetings, etc. The unionists insisted that the police power now in force was sufficient, and that legislation on this subject could be easily twisted to infringe on the right of free speech and free assemblage.

ONE ESTIMATE OF ROCKEFELLER

New York, Feb. 6.—"Mr. Rockefeller, who appears to the world in the relief afforded the Belgians a liberal benefactor, stands convicted before the workers of Colorado as a narrowly biased and visionless moneymaker," said Edward P. Costigan, counsel for the United Mine Workers, before the United States industrial relations commission.

NEW EMPLOYMENT RULE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 6.—It is stated that as a result of studies made by state inspectors, orders are being prepared to withdraw all certificates permitting boys and girls under sixteen to work in Pennsylvania tobacco factories.

NO CHANGE IN WAGE RATE.

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 6.—Through the activity of Toronto trade unionists the common council has refused to reduce the wages and shorten the hours of casual workers employed by the city.

CONTRACTORS ARE FINED.

Austin, Tex., Feb. 6.—The Topeka Bridge and Steel company pleaded guilty to three charges of violating the state eight-hour law. Fines that totaled $450 were imposed.

TEXAS WORKERS TO MEET.

Austin, Tex., Feb. 6.—A call for the eighteenth annual convention of the Texas State Federation of Labor, to be held in this city, has been issued.

ADVANTAGES OF HIGH DUES

Washington, Feb. 6.—In the American Federationist, current issue, President Gompers, discussing the advantages of high dues and low initiation fees, says, in part:

"Power is necessary to influence. Power depends upon resources. This is true of the trade union as well as of every other organization. The labor organizations that have the greatest power to protect their members and the greatest influence in furthering the needs and the demands of their members are the labor organizations provided with ample, substantial financial resources.

"There is only one way to accumulate organization funds—payment of adequate union dues. Organizations have found it a wise policy to increase low dues as rapidly as possible, because increased financial resources at their command give them increased prestige, increased ability to secure better wages and working conditions and increased ability to provide against threatened dangers. There is no investment a wage-earner can make that will bring him greater returns than his union dues. If dues to the union are increased proportionally as the union increases wages, the power of the union to promote and safeguard the interests of its members becomes increasingly effective.

"The financial organization of a trade union must be based on sound business principles. Wildcat finances in trade unions will be no more reliable than wildcat banking investments. Money will not get into the union treasury by miracle or by the wishing process. The protection of a well-filled treasury is possible only for those who are willing to pay the price in dues, management and foresight. The very existence of a sound financial organization constitutes a defense of its members. Power does not always have to be aggressively used in order to be effective—reserve power is often the most potent. Consciousness that they possess power puts moral courage and confidence into the workers, and it puts fear into the hearts of those who would wrong them. When power exists there is hesitancy to deny the possessors their rights or fair demands. The existence of the power of self-defense prevents many industrial struggles while the weak and helpless are wronged with impunity.

"As union dues are increased it is possible to extend the system of union benefits. These benefits supplement the wages earned and enable unionists to live better and more comfortably.

"Labor organizations are constantly preaching the gospel of higher wages. What wages are to the individual, dues are to the organization. The ideal of the American Federation of Labor is to have each organization strong, competent to manage its affairs and to solve its own difficulties. While there is whole-souled sympathy and willingness to help fellow-workers in their time of need, yet the best results for all workers can be obtained when each organization is free to protect and promote the rights and interests of its own members and to organize the yet unorganized.

"But high dues should not be accompanied by high initiation fee. Indeed the initiation fee should be small, thereby inviting and making it possible for the yet unorganized to join the union and to make common cause with their fellow-workers to secure the common welfare of all. High dues regularly paid will inevitably lead to greater self-reliance, mutual interdependence, unity, solidarity, fraternity, and federation."

EXPOSE CONVICT CAMPS.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 6.—In his annual report, State Humane Officer Rankin has this to say on the state's system of leasing convicts:

"During the past few years this society has been very active in exposing and breaking up the horrible conditions found in some of these convict camps. In many cases we found these unfortunate prisoners were being driven with curses, urged with blows and forced to live in a condition that would shame a dog breeder if he kenneled his animals in a place approximately as bad. Some of these men who worked and abused such prisoners were men of wealth and much political influence, making it extremely difficult to obtain such information that would justify the officers of the society in presenting the matter before the public. But we have never failed to report conditions as we found them, regardless of who it pleased or displeased. I believe the public has been awakened to such sentiment that will prevent its recurrence."

STRIKE RESTORES WAGES.

Miami, Ariz., Feb. 6.—Metal miners and other workers employed by the Miami Mining company and the Inspiration Mining company, have won their demand for a restoration of the wage rates prior to last August, when a 10 per cent reduction was enforced. Under the agreement the machinists, electricians, boilermakers, carpenters, helpers and common laborers will receive the old wage rate. The miners and hoisting engineers will work on a sliding scale. About 2,000 men were involved in the strike, which was free from violence, and was marked by the absence of imported gunmen and thugs.

"TURKEYS NEXT CHRISTMAS."

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 6.—The state board of arbitration and conciliation asked Treasurer Fowler of the Valley Paper mill: "Do you consider $1.10 per day a living wage?" Mr. Fowler answered: "I am not responsible for conditions under which we live in this world."

Employes of the paper mill's rag-room are on strike because of wage reductions and hour increases. The evidence showed that when these women workers protested against conditions Mr. Fowler promised them "turkeys next Christmas."

MAKING STEADY GAINS.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 6.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers continues negotiating wage scale increases. It began the new year by securing wage increases and improved working conditions on the Northern Pacific railroad. This was followed by betterments on the Georgia & Florida railroad, and the third advance last month was when the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad signed an agreement carrying a wage increase of 5 per cent.

TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS.

New York, Feb. 6.—In its fight against the white plague, the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis has inaugurated a movement for closer co-operation with labor unions. On the committee is President Gompers, President Perkins, of the Cigarmakers' International union; Grand Chief Garretson, of the Order of Railway Conductors, and John Mitchell.